

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 211

By Fraley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the ministers and congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church upon their 150th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Trinity Episcopal Church in Winchester, Tennessee, comprise one such congregation, and they are celebrating the church's 150 years of service to the Lord and their community this year; and

WHEREAS, the history of Trinity Episcopal Church dates back to 1859, when the missionary Reverend Thomas A. Morris held the first Episcopal service in a room at the courthouse in Winchester with only one communicant present, Mrs. Julia Hancock; and

WHEREAS, forging the creation of Trinity Episcopal Church from these humble beginnings, the Reverend Morris was determined and patient in his efforts to establish an Episcopal Church in Winchester; and

WHEREAS, by 1860, the congregation had grown in size through the Reverend Morris' efforts and a Parish was organized and admitted to the Diocese of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after the congregation purchased the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in downtown Winchester, Trinity Episcopal Church had its first permanent home which lasted until the War Between the States;

WHEREAS, after serving as a hospital for the Federal Army during the occupation of Winchester in 1863, it is reported by Bishop Charles Quintard that the church was destroyed by fire during the War and the congregation moved their services back to the courthouse; and

WHEREAS, in 1868, the Reverend Franklin L. Knight was placed in charge of Carrick Academy, a state chartered academy for boys located in Winchester until 1878; having no church building, the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church moved their services into Carrick Academy after the Reverend Knight was placed in charge of church services; and

WHEREAS, with remarkable faith and significant contributions by the congregation, the foundation of Trinity Episcopal Church was laid in 1872; the church has remained in its present location since its completion in 1874; and

WHEREAS, during the ensuing decades, Trinity Episcopal Church faced many trials and tests as the congregational population declined; after losing its Parish status with the Diocese of Tennessee, the faith and prayer of the remaining members of the church helped them endure many tribulations in their efforts to continue their mission and Christian endeavors; and

WHEREAS, during the 1930s, Trinity Episcopal Church went through a period of revitalization and began to grow under the guidance of the Reverend Charles Leonidas Widney, rector of the Otey Parish in Sewanee; and

WHEREAS, by 1941, Trinity Episcopal Church once again had a resident priest to lead the congregation; and

WHEREAS, as the membership grew over the years, the need to expand was felt by the congregation and the Trinity Memorial Parish House was built; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Trinity Episcopal Church was re-admitted as a Parish in the Diocese of Tennessee and through the admirable leadership of the clergy and the faithful giving and sacrifice of its lay membership, Trinity Episcopal Church has retained its current Parish status; and

WHEREAS, today, the congregational members of Trinity Episcopal Church continue to grow in God's grace, focus on prayer and mission, and humbly serve the Lord; and

WHEREAS, Trinity Episcopal Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 150 years, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Winchester; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Trinity Episcopal Church, thank the good people of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.